

She refuses to answer this question because they want to hide it from the American people, just like the names of the 16 prisoners they are demanding that Egypt release. Presumably, if the American people knew those names, knew the affiliations, knew the backgrounds, they would be outraged. Likewise, if the American people read the written guidance issued by this State Department, prohibiting uttering of the words "Abraham Accords," then the charade so many Democrats try to play in supporting those accords would be that much harder to maintain.

A third example, turning to Iran, perhaps more than anything else, first and foremost, this administration wants to return to the catastrophic Obama-Biden-Iran nuclear deal and to dismantle meaningful sanctions against the theocratic regime in Iran. From the earliest hours of the administration, the effort began to do exactly that.

As part of that push, the administration has quietly, and sometimes secretly, reduced pressure on Iran and released frozen Iranian funds. But the Ayatollah wants to see just how much he can get, and he may not think that President Biden will ever do anything meaningful. If the United States isn't going to impose pressure on Iran, there is no reason for the Ayatollah to return to the deal at all. He doesn't need to take "yes" for an answer for a deal because he is getting everything anyway.

And so since very early in the administration, the Biden-Harris officials have contemplated what has been called a "less for less" agreement in which they would reduce some pressure on Iran for something less than full compliance. You will only nuke some of us.

Once again, we only know about the existence of these considerations from public reports. In February and again over the summer, Reuters reported on administration officials contemplating these deals, the so-called "less for less" deals. We here in Congress know a little more but not much.

Congress and the public deserve to know what is being contemplated to reduce pressure on the Iranian regime, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism and a regime that seeks—and, I believe, may well be willing—to use nuclear weapons to murder millions of Americans and millions of our allies.

I believe that if the Ayatollah had the ability to murder millions of Americans or millions of Israelis in the blink of an eye, the odds are far too high that this theocratic zealot, who glories in death and suicide, would be willing to do so.

And so I asked Ms. Leaf for the details of such agreements. Here is what she said in response:

There have been no such arrangements, deals, or agreements contemplated to reduce pressure on Iran.

That statement is false. It is categorically, directly, unequivocally

false. It is false testimony in writing to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Ms. Leaf knows it is false, and the State Department handlers who transmitted her written answer to the Senate know that it is false.

What is the Biden administration trying to hide? What deep details don't they want us to know?

This isn't just about policy disagreements, although I disagree vehemently with many of this administration's policies. I understand some people, some Democrats, will disagree. But even more fundamentally, this is about transparency and oversight. On that, there should be no disagreement.

And these questions are ones that go to the very core of this administration's Middle East foreign policy and of American national security. What extremists are President Biden and Vice President HARRIS trying to empower? Whom do they view as allies worth supporting in the region? What deals are being contemplated with the Iranian regime?

I asked Ms. Leaf for these details. She has, after all, been working right in the center of Middle East issues for this administration. She and the Biden-Harris administration are refusing to answer. The public has a right to know.

Let me also point out that President Biden, in recent days, said publicly that if Iran enters into a new nuclear deal, the United States would stay bound by it in perpetuity as long as Iran didn't renege on that deal. I want to be absolutely clear on something: President Biden has zero constitutional authority to make that commitment.

The Ayatollah in Iran could be forgiven for misunderstanding that. The Ayatollah, after all, is a total dictator with the ability to line up anyone who disagrees and execute them on the spot. But, thankfully, the President of the United States does not enjoy such dictatorial powers.

Under our Constitution, there are two ways, and two ways only, that a President can make a binding commitment on the United States of America. The first is through passing a law that passes the Senate, passes the House, and is signed into law by the President. If President Biden wishes to do so with any Iran deal, he is welcome to do so.

The second and the way, traditionally, that foreign policies agreements are handled is through a treaty—a treaty that is submitted to the Senate and ratified by two-thirds of the Senate. The chances that the Biden-Harris whatever disastrous nuclear deal they work out with Iran, the chances that that would be ratified by two-thirds of the Senate I can quantify exactly. There is 0.00 percent.

President Biden knows that. He knows that because the Senate has been unequivocal that this deal is disastrous and harmful for American national security, harmful for Israel, and harmful for our allies. And so, instead, President Biden makes an empty promise that he cannot commit.

In that, he is following in the footsteps of President Obama. President Obama made a similar promise, and President Obama knew it was a lie when he said it, and President Biden knows it is a lie when he says it.

History demonstrated that President Obama told a falsehood because the next Republican President, Donald J. Trump, ripped the Obama-Iran deal to shreds and withdrew from the deal, which was the right decision. I urged President Trump to do that.

Our allies and our enemies should mark my words on this: Regardless of whatever empty promises President Biden makes, he lacks constitutional authority to bind a subsequent administration. And I believe it is 100 percent certain that the next Republican President who is sworn into office will once again rip to shreds any disastrous deal negotiated with the Ayatollah and Iran.

So President Biden has 3 more years to try to give away the store, to try to send billions of dollars, perhaps on pallets in the dead of night like Barack Obama did, to fund theocratic terrorists who want to murder Americans and murder Israelis. But the Ayatollah needs to know, Europe needs to know, our friends need to know, our enemies need to know that President Biden's promises are empty words that will expire the instant his Presidency is over.

We don't have a dictator in this country. We have a constitutional republic. If President Biden wants to bind subsequent administrations, he can negotiate a treaty, submit a treaty to the Senate, and get it ratified. But he doesn't have the votes, and so instead he makes empty promises.

If President Biden and Vice President HARRIS were proud of the policies they are pursuing in the Middle East, they would give the American people the list of the 16 prisoners they are trying to force Egypt to release.

We know that multiple of the names Senate Democrats have put in the appropriations language are affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood. We know one is an anti-Semitic hate preacher. And we suspect that the administration knows full well that if it released those names, it couldn't defend them to the American people. It is counting on darkness and secrecy to hide their conduct.

I believe the Senate—both Republicans and Democrats—have an obligation to the American people to shine a light. If you are going to extort our allies to release prisoners, tell us now: Are they affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood? Are they anti-Semites? Are they a national security threat to the United States or our allies? The American people deserve to know.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:55 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 154 AND 601:

To be admiral

ADM. CHRISTOPHER W. GRADY

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ANTHONY W. PEREZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

DUSTIN R. MEREDITH

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

GABRIELLE L. MURRAY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

MICHAEL R. RUIZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

NICHOLAS J. BECK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

PETER A. DOBLAR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

FRANCIS E. IGO IV

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

KEN M. WOODS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be lieutenant colonel

KATHARINE M. E. ADAMS
CHRISTOPHER K. ANDERSON
DEIRDRE K. BAKER
BRANDON R. BERGMANN
RICHARD J. CONNAROE II
GRETCHEN L. DAVENPORT
DONEL J. DAVIS
SHESSY T. DAVIS

KATHERINE T. DENEHY
JACK D. EINHORN
SEAN P. FITZGIBBON
DAVID L. FORD
MATTHEW L. FORST
SAMUEL GABREMARIAM
ROBERT L. GADDY
MATTHEW C. GALLAGHER
MARK E. GARDNER
EMILY E. GEISINGER
DANIEL M. GOLDBERG
TERRY J. GRIDER
BRAD T. GWILLIM
JOHN B. HABERLAND
TYLER J. HEIMANN
LATISHA IRWIN
JOSEPH E. JORGENSEN
JANAE M. LEPIR
CYNTHIA MARSHALL
ROBERTO C. MARTENS
EVAN R. MATTHEWS
BRUCE L. MAYEAUX
MATTHEW T. MILLER
ANTHONY M. OSBORNE
ANGEL M. OVERGAARD
AUTUMN R. PORTER
SETH B. RITZMAN
KURT M. ROWLAND
ROBERT W. RUNYANS
CRAIG M. SCROGHAM
CHRISTOPHER S. SEXTON
RICHARD J. SLEESMAN
ANDREW D. SMITH
KATHERINE M. SPENCER
HEIDI M. STEELE
RICHARD THOMAS
LAURA B. WEST
HANS P. ZELLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ALEJANDRO L. BUNIAG, JR.
JASON J. COUGHENOUR
MICHAEL W. WEAVER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ERICA A. WHEATLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JAMISON S. NIELSEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ROBERT P. LEWIS
SCOT W. MCCOSH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JADER A. MORALES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

MOISES SALINAS

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ERIC A. WALRAVEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

DANIEL T. CELOTTO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JASON A. RETTER

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

To be lieutenant commander

MITCHELL I. BELL
LARRY W. BUCKNER II
JOHN P. CHANATHRY
ANNA J. ELZEFTAWY
CARLOS A. GAITAN
JOSEPH M. GAILLETDESTAURIN
SEAN A. GARFOLA
CHRISTINA A. GATTI
SETH T. GLEASON
BRADLI A. HOWARD
DAVID I. JOHNSON
JOSHUA A. JORGENSEN
CURTIS A. KHOL, JR.
MATTHEW J. LANOUE
CHRISTOPHER W. MASTERS
TALAABE K. MEYERS
CHEKOTE A. NADEN
WILLIAM J. OQUINN
MICHAEL W. QUINLAN
PETER A. ROEMER
SALVATORE SANNUTO
NATHAN R. STAATS
ROBERT W. STEELE II
MICHAEL T. SULLIVAN
LUKE C. TALBOT
RICHARD M. TEMPLETON
JOEL D. P. THOMAS
ANDREW H. THOMPSON
JAMES T. VANDENPLAS, JR.
KARA VANSICE
ALICIA J. VETTER
DEREK P. VONDISTERLO
DAVID J. WOODS
PATRICK Z. X. YU

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

MATTHEW C. DENNIS

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CHRISTINA N. GILLETTE
D S. ROGERS

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203(A):

To be captain

MONIQUE M. ROEBUCK
SUSANA E. LEE
RUSSELL D. MAYER

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 1, 2021:

THE JUDICIARY

TOBY J. HEYTENS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT.
BETH ROBINSON, OF VERMONT, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT.